

TOWEL OR BLANKET WITH INTEGRAL CARRYING CASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional  
Application No. 60/140,235, filed June 21, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a towel or blanket  
having an integral carrying case.

10 People going to the beach, swimming pool, hiking,  
camping, etc. often carry a towel or blanket in one arm and  
miscellaneous items in their other hand, which is clumsy and  
inconvenient.

15 When laying down at the beach, etc., it is more  
comfortable if something can be found to place under your  
head. Pillows, however, are too bulky to carry very far.

20 When a towel is placed on a lounge chair it tends to slip  
off the chair. Items placed under the chair are sometimes  
forgotten when leaving.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a  
towel or blanket having an integral carrying case which  
alleviates many of the foregoing problems.

25 The present invention provides a towel or blanket which  
can be stuffed into an attached case for easy carrying. The

case is adapted to receive a pillow when the towel or blanket is deployed for use.

The invention comprises a rectangular sheet of towel or blanket type material.

5       The sheet has a case attached to its upper portion which can be used as a pillow case when the sheet is in use as a towel or blanket, and is used as the carrying/storage case for the sheet when it is not in use as a towel or blanket.

10       At least one pocket is located adjacent each of the longitudinal edges of the sheet for handy storage of personal items.

15       Slip cover pockets are attached at one or both ends of the sheet and are adapted to fit over the ends of a lounge chair.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top view of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

20       FIG. 2 is a back view of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a top view of an alternative embodiment of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a right side view of a lounge chair having the towel or blanket of the present invention placed thereon; and

25       FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the case containing the towel or blanket of the present invention.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The sheet of the present invention may be used as either a towel or blanket. In discussing the invention below, the sheet will be discussed relative to its use as a beach towel; however, it is to be understood that the sheet may be made of blanket type material and used as a blanket when camping, etc.

Towel 10 is a generally rectangular sheet 12 having ends 14 and 15 and longitudinal side edges 16 and 17.

Sheet 12 is a flexible material of the type used to make towels, such as terry cloth. However, many types of natural, synthetic or recycled materials may be used for making sheet 12 for use as a towel or blanket. Such materials include wool, rayon, polyester, velvet, silk, mock silk, cotton, cotton blends, nylon, knits, canvas, denim, vinyl, leather, suede, mock leather, suede and nubuck.

A case 20 is attached, such as by sewing a portion of the inner surface of case 20 to the upper portion of sheet 12. Case 20 is made of flexible material, preferably the same material as rectangular sheet 12. Sheet 12 is attached to case 20

In a preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. 5, case 20 has substantially parallel front and rear walls 21 and 22, substantially parallel side walls 23 and 24, and a bottom wall 25.

In the preferred embodiment shown in FIG. 5, the inner surface of the rear wall 22 of case 20 is attached to sheet

12. As viewed in FIG. 5, the inner surfaces of front and rear walls 21 and 22, side walls 23 and 24, and bottom wall 25 are all located inside case 20. In FIG. 1 the inner surface of front wall 21 is illustrated.

5 A flap 26 extends from the upper edge of rear wall 22 and can be folded down over the upper edge of front wall 21. Flap 26 can be secured to front wall 21 in any suitable manner, such as by mating snaps 27 and 28. However, other fastener means, such as a zipper, hook and loop fastener material, etc.  
10 may be used.

Carrying means comprised of a strap 29 is attached to case 20 for ease of carry. Although the carrying means is illustrated in FIG. 5 as being a purse type strap 29, the strap may be attached along one side wall 23 or 24 to provide  
15 a tote bag type strap, or a pair of straps attached to the rear wall 22 to provide a backpack type strap. A handle or drawstrings may be used as the carrying means.

Although the preferred embodiment of case 20 has been described as having front, rear, side and bottom walls, in an  
20 alternative embodiment (not shown) case 20 may be formed of only front and rear walls attached together along three sides. In yet another embodiment (not shown), case 20 may have a cylindrical shape open at one end.

As seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, storage pockets 30 and 32 may  
25 be located substantially on each longitudinal edge 16 and 17 in a mid-portion thereof. Alternatively, a plurality of

storage pockets 34 and 36 may be located inboard of longitudinal edges 16 and 17, respectively, as seen in FIG. 3. Pockets 30, 32, 34 and 36 are used for storing items such as lotions, etc.

5 Upper and lower slip cover pockets 40 and 42 are used to secure the upper and lower ends 14 and 15, respectively, of towel 10 to the upper torso portion and the leg portion, respectively, of a lounge chair 50. Although in the preferred embodiment slip cover pockets 40 and 42 are located at each  
10 end of sheet 12, the invention also contemplates locating a single slip cover pocket 40 at only the upper end of sheet 12.

Slip cover pockets 40 and 42 may be easily formed by folding the ends of sheet 12 back on itself and sewing together the overlying edges.

15 When towel 10 is in use, i.e., the configuration shown in FIGS. 1-4, case 20 is reversed and a pillow (not shown) can be inserted into case 20. Preferably, the pillow is an inflatable type which can be more easily transported.

20 After completion of use, towel 10 is removed from lounge chair 50 and the pillow removed from case 20. Case 20 is then turned inside out (reversed) and sheet 12 stuffed inside reversed case 20. Flap 26 is secured to front wall 21 and the user carries case 20 by means of strap 29.

25 Deployment of towel 10 for use involves the reverse procedure, i.e., flap 26 is opened and sheet 12 pulled out of case 20. Case 20 is reversed for use as a pillow case.

For use in wet or damp locations, flexible sheet 12 may have a waterproof sheet of material attached to the bottom side thereof, such as by stitching the two together. The waterproof sheet should be substantially the same size as flexible sheet 12, i.e., the ends and side edges of the waterproof sheet should be substantially coextensive with the ends 14 and 15 and side edges 16 and 17 of sheet 12. The waterproof sheet may be made of a plastic material, such as polyethylene or vinyl, or a natural or synthetic rubber.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many changes may be made to the above-described embodiments of this invention that employ the underlying principles thereof. The scope of the present invention should, therefore, be determined only by the following claims.